

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 445-6447

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
ALAN LOWENTHAL  
TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



January 5, 2005

Catalina Island Conservancy  
P.O. Box 2739  
Avalon, CA 90704

As the State Senator for the 27<sup>th</sup> District, I would like to offer my support of your Catalina Island Conservancy's Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program.

Your task of restoring and protecting the wildlands of Catalina Island, located just 20 miles from one of the nation's largest metropolitan areas, is a challenge, and the problems caused by invasive plants add to it. Your history of successful conservation and environmental programs is exemplary and I know that the Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program will also be successful.

Your conservation program is vital to the protection of such a unique ecosystem and the recreational opportunities it offers. If in any way I could further support your program, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Lowenthal".

Alan Lowenthal  
Senator, 27<sup>th</sup> District  
California State Legislature

ROOM 5066  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4900  
TEL (916) 445-6447  
FAX (916) 327-9113

3711 LONG BEACH BOULEVARD  
SUITE 801  
LONG BEACH, CA 90807  
TEL (562) 997-0794  
FAX (562) 997-0799



## California State Senate

**BETTY KARNETTE**

SENATOR  
TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

November 30, 2004

Catalina Island Conservancy  
P.O. Box 2739  
Avalon, CA 90704

To Whom It May Concern:

As the outgoing state Senator for the 27<sup>th</sup> District and as the state Assembly Member Elect for the 54<sup>th</sup> District, which include Catalina Island, I write to communicate my strong support for the Catalina Island Conservancy grant request to implement the Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program (CHIRP).

The proposed conservation efforts are urgently needed to protect the native plants and animals unique to Catalina, many of which do not exist anywhere else on earth. Over one million visitors travel to Catalina each year and there are numerous opportunities through this program to share with others how valuable our natural resources are and why they need protection. Land stewards throughout the state can also learn from this program to protect the lands they manage.

The Conservancy has a track record that clearly demonstrates the aptitude and experience necessary to design, implement, and complete complex conservation programs such as the Feral Animal Removal and Native Plant Nursery programs. It has also done an outstanding job to protect both the federally endangered Catalina Island Fox and Catalina Island Mahogany Tree. The CHIRP program will enhance the benefits derived from these previous conservation efforts by reducing the impacts posed by invasive plants, and restoring valuable habitat.

Now is the time to accomplish the vision set forth in the CHIRP proposal – while many of the invasive plant populations are relatively small and cost-effective to control. With support from the Wildlife Conservation Board's Habitat Enhancement and Restoration program, the Conservancy can reach its full potential to restore Catalina to a healthy island ecosystem.

Thank you for working to help the Conservancy protect Catalina Island's unique natural resources and heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Karnette".

BETTY KARNETTE

BK:tm

### COMMITTEES:

**CHAIR:**  
BLUE-RIBBON STATE COMMISSION  
ON TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CALIFORNIA  
EUROPEAN TRADE DEVELOPMENT

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON**  
ALAMEDA CORRIDOR

**MEMBER:**  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BANKING, COMMERCE AND  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
EDUCATION  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
AND RETIREMENT  
RULES  
TRANSPORTATION

**SELECT COMMITTEE:**  
ALAMEDA CORRIDOR EAST  
(VICE CHAIR)  
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM  
INVESTIGATE PRICE MANIPULATION  
OF THE WHOLESALE ENERGY  
MARKET

**LEGISLATIVE MEMBER:**  
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  
METROPOLITAN TRANSIT  
AUTHORITY

TOTAL P.02



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

822 KENNETH HARRIS HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
Telephone (213) 874 4444 / FAX (213) 626 6941

**DON KNABE**  
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

January 6, 2005

Mr. Al Wright  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board  
1807 13th Street, Suite #103  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Wright:

As the Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Fourth District, which includes Catalina Island, I am writing in strong support of the Catalina Island Conservancy's Wildlife Conservation Board Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program grant application.

The habitat improvements proposed on the Island will be an added protection of the unique plant and wildlife that are endemic to Catalina and the Channel Islands chain. Catalina is located within less than an hour travel to the greater Los Angeles area, and the Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program would ensure that generations of Californians will be able to experience its diverse native species and learn from the conservation efforts to protect them.

The habitat improvements include eradication and control of invasive plant species and the planting of native plants at degraded sites. This work will help to protect the rare and sensitive native species and habitats, which are vital to the survival of Island wildlife. It also will serve as a model for other land trusts and conservation organizations throughout Los Angeles County and the State.

Thank you for your consideration and feel free to call me if you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Knabe", is written over the typed name.

DON KNABE  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles

DK:co



## SANTA CATALINA ISLAND COMPANY

December 3, 2004

Catalina Island Conservancy  
Post Office Box 2738  
Avalon, CA 90704

The Santa Catalina Island Company is supportive of the Catalina Island Conservancy's conservation efforts to protect the Island from the threat of invasive plant species.

We realize, as the second largest landholder on the Island, the importance of a holistic approach to combat this problem as necessary. Invasive plants do not affect just one landholder, but all on the Island, and only together can we effectively solve this problem.

We are excited that the Conservancy is inviting a diversity of groups to contribute to this endeavor, and we look forward to our collaboration in this effort and the project's future success.

Sincerely,



Ronald C. Doult  
President and COO

Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program

**Appendix 11 – California Department of Fish & Game Recommendation Letter**



State of California – The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

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11/2/04  
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**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>  
4949 Viewridge Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 467-4201



October 28, 2004

Mr. Peter T. Schuyler  
Director of Ecological Restoration  
Catalina Island Conservancy  
PO Box 2739  
Avalon, CA 90704

**Support for Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program**

Dear Mr. Schuyler,

The Department of Fish and Game (Department), South Coast Region, has reviewed the Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program (CHIRP) plan prepared by the Catalina Island Conservancy (Conservancy) and submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). Several interviews have taken place between the Invasive Plant Program Manager, John Knapp and John Ekhoﬀ, the South Coast Region (SCR)'s Ecological Reserve Botanist specializing in wildland weed abatement. Mr. Ekhoﬀ is familiar with the invasive plant situation on Catalina Island and is well aware of the problem that this program will address.

The SCR believes that the CHIRP will be the beginning of a well thought-out adaptive management process that can ultimately transform the landscape of Catalina Island. This transformation into a more native ecosystem will provide the best chance for long-term preservation of all its endemic species. The program will provide a solid basis for future restoration activities on the island while providing to the restoration community valuable lessons on wildland non-native plant control and its relationship to ecological restoration.

Missing from the CHIRP plan was sufficient mention of the erosion problems on the island caused by past human disturbance. Although erosion was not a focus for the present program it should be noted that the control of the erosion of valuable island soil ought to be addressed as part of a restoration effort. In the process of controlling non-native species, steps can be taken to utilize the abatement projects as part of an erosion control program. The use of Eucalyptus biomass for erosion control structures such as water bars in dirt roads or trails, check dams in gullies, etc. are good examples of wedding the abatement projects with erosion control projects.

The Department is interested in collaborating and sharing weed abatement and native seed collection ideas with the Conservancy. We have recently engaged a local university to perform abatement and seed collection studies on our Ecological Reserves in San Diego County.

Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program

Mr. Schuyler  
October 28, 2004  
Page 2 of 2

Collaboration could serve to better implement each other's adaptive management programs for both organizations.

In conclusion, the Department strongly supports the CHIRP and encourages the WCB to provide funding for this valuable effort. If you have any questions on this please contact John Ekhoﬀ in the Regional Office. He can be reached at the letterhead address or by telephone at (858) 467-4205.

Sincerely,



C. F. Raysbrook  
Regional Manager  
South Coast Region

cc: Department of Fish and Game  
J. Ekhoﬀ, San Diego  
LMMP Chron file, San Diego

Wildlife Conservation Board  
Peter Perrine, Sacramento

JE/TS  
File:DFGsupportletterCHIRP\_WCBgrant.doc



# City of Avalon

## Santa Catalina Island

November 17, 2004

Catalina Island Conservancy  
PO Box 2738  
Avalon, CA 90704

The City of Avalon is supportive of your efforts to protect Catalina from the threat of invasive plant species through the Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program (CHIRP).

We realize the importance of a holistic approach to combat this problem, and we understand how the City of Avalon and our citizens play an integral part in the stewardship of the Island, through invasive plant prevention and volunteerism.

The City's 2020 Vision plan calls for us to preserve and maintain the quality of life we have on the Island and to work toward ecological sustainability in all that we do. The necessary first step is to focus communication among stakeholders on this issue, and I feel that your efforts to fund a Catalina Island Weed Management Area Steering Committee is a positive step toward this, and would complement the conservation activities of the CHIRP.

I am very much in favor of involving the City Council and local citizens in a hands-on grass-roots approach to solving environmental problems and working toward a common vision of the future. I am happy to assist the Conservancy in whatever way I can to help this excellent program succeed.

Sincerely,

Ralph Morrow  
Mayor  
City of Avalon

Administration / Finance  
Public Works  
P.O. Box 707  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310 510-0220  
Fax 310 510-0901

Harbor Department  
P.O. Box 1085  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310 510-0535  
Fax 310 510-2640

Fire Department  
P.O. Box 707  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310 510-0203  
Fax 310 510-0104

Community Services  
P.O. Box 1980  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310 510-1987  
Fax 310 510-9528

Planning / Building  
Capital Improvements  
P.O. Box 707  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310 510-0220  
Fax 310 510-2608



December 2, 2004

Ann Muscat, PhD  
President & CEO  
Catalina Island Conservancy  
P.O. Box 2739  
Avalon, CA 90704

Dear Ann:

The Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau is pleased to support the Conservancy's *Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program* to address the threat of invasive plants to the Island.

Your proposal to protect Catalina's unique and sensitive plant and wildlife through invasive plant prioritization and control is admirable. Our island's unique plant and wildlife are strong selling points in our organization's efforts to build a strong local economy through the promotion of tourism to Catalina Island.

The environmental health and economic vitality of our island are critical to our future prosperity. A community-based approach to solving environmental problems and encouraging environmental stewardship will ensure success.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wayne Griffin".

Wayne G. Griffin, ACE  
President and Chief Executive Officer

*Not Just an Island, Another World.*

Voice: 310.510.1520  
Fax: 310.510.7606

P.O. Box 217  
Avalon, California 90704

web: [www.catalina.com](http://www.catalina.com)  
email: [info@visitcatalina.org](mailto:info@visitcatalina.org)